

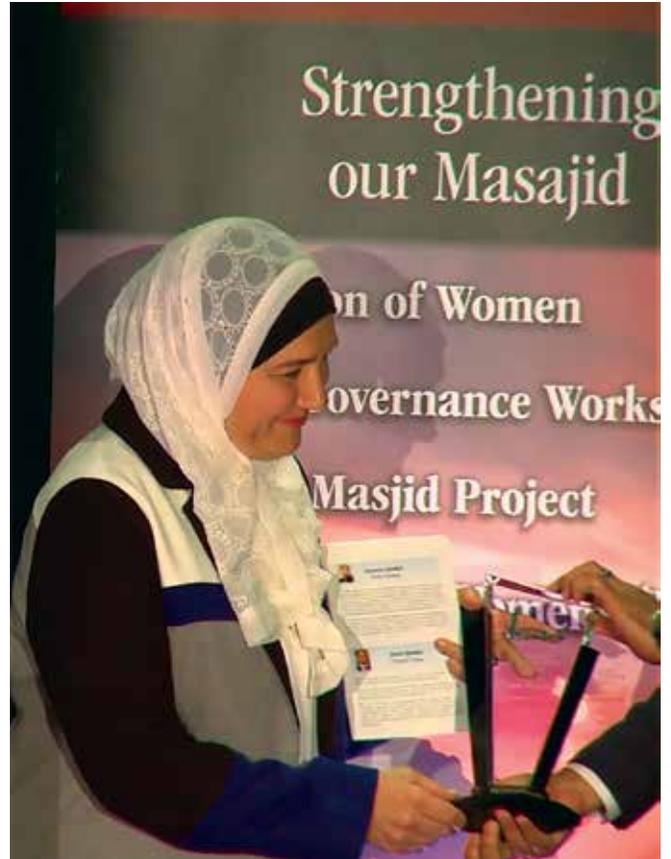


YOUR  
MONEY AT  
WORK

# ISNA Education Forums



ISNA offered two Education Forums in 2019 -- the 20th Annual Education Forum held in Chicago with the theme of "Integrating Social Justice in Islamic Education" and the 8th Annual West Coast Education Forum in Orange County, CA. with the theme of "Teaching Values to Empower Students." These two events brought together teachers, principals and others working in Islamic schools across America to inspire and learn from one another. Focusing on empowering students to take the lead in their learning and act as agents for good in the wider



world. Guest speakers and audiences shared best practices, curriculum and teaching ideas, digital resources, and educa-





tional and organizational strategies, and addressed challenging issues that Muslim educators may deal with. This year's focus on social justice, morality, values and student empowerment reflects ISNA's year-long emphasis on inspiring, encouraging and energizing American Muslims and the American Muslim community to flex their superpowers for social good.

Both Education Forums offered four focus areas: Islamic Studies & Character Building, Curriculum Development & Instruction, Arabic & Quranic Studies, and School Leadership & Board Development. Session topics at the two conferences were wide-ranging including discussions of: Empowering Moral Development, Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Technology in the Curriculum and the Classroom, Character Building, Digital Tools for Learning, Islamic Sexual Development Curriculum, Arts Programming that Goes Beyond Calligraphy and Crafts, Differentiating Arabic Teaching for Heritage Learners vs Second Language Learners, Mental Well-being in the Classroom, Using Assessment to Measure Student Growth, Developing a Meaningful and Engaging Weekend School Curriculum, and Building a Better School Executive Board, and more.

Both forums also presented a "Lifetime Achievement in Islamic Education" to distinguished professionals who have made



significant contributions to Islamic Education in America. In Chicago, the award was presented to Habeeb Quadri, a well-known author/lecturer on Islam and social problems affecting youth. Habeeb is co-chair of MYNA, and board member of the Council of Islamic Schools in North America, and a member of the Harvard Graduate School of Education Principal Advisory Board. In California, the award was presented to Iman Hashem, formerly a teacher at New Horizon Islamic School, currently Program Director of Arabic Language at Occidental College, consultant and coach for Arabic language and public elementary schools in California, designer of a certificate program for teachers of Arabic and Arabic speakers, and a current instructor of Arabic and world language teaching methods at California State University, Long Beach.



# Nurturing the Next Generation



Since its inception in the 1980's MYNA has been unique among youth programs in that it not only serves America's Muslim teenagers, but is also run by and managed by them, with adult advisors taking a supportive, mentorship role. MYNA's flagship program over the past 30+ years has been its week-long camps which offer a unique combination of lectures, workshops, arts and recreational activities along with opportunities for self-exploration, building friendships, and spiritual nourishment. These camps serve not only as an inspirational, learning and community building opportunity for participants, but also provide hands-on event planning training to youth organizers. In 2019, including camps being held this December, MYNA's youth leaders planned and put on 12 camps across the nation.

The six spring camps were held in Maryland, Florida, Indiana, Illinois (weekend-long City Edition), Texas and California, on the theme of (Re)New You. These camps challenged youth to embrace compassion, introducing them to the true understanding of Allah's mercy, ways to seek His pleasure, and how to forgive others. Three summer retreats were held in Pennsylvania, Indiana and Oklahoma, with the theme of Iqra: One Book, One Week, One Life-Changing Journey. Campers,



“MYNA is more than just four letters. It's a means to grow closer to Allah (SWT). It's a movement. It's a home. And it will always be family.”

— MYNA President  
Noor Sheikh-Khalil

counselors and speakers at these camps delved into the power, beauty and practicality of the Quran. Our three winter camps are being held in North Carolina, Illinois and California on the theme of The Blueprint: Discover Your Leadership Potential. These camps will encourage youth to discover the true meaning of leadership using the Prophet's blueprint and to transform themselves into leaders in Muslim American circles, among their peers at school, and in their communities.

From a MYNA Blog post submitted by Ameen, “Coming to my first camp in 2015, I thought of it simply as a single event I would be attending just to have fun. But this camp opened up a long journey of a closer relationship with Allah (SWT), a family of so many friends and connections within the organization, and a life changing experience for myself (...) Going on my fourth year as a part of the MYNA family, every single event creates an opportunity to attain knowledge, establish new friendships, and strengthen the personal connection between myself and Allah (SWT).

MYNA also gathered all of its incoming organizational officers for a Summer Leadership Retreat in June. Over 40 youth traveled to Flint, Michigan from California, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, Indiana, Arizona, North Carolina, and more. They spent a week together building bonds, and learning skills that will last them a lifetime. Guest speakers gave lectures and led workshops,



“ From strangers thanking us for the work we were doing, to giving us hugs and taking pictures, to my group’s engagement with a man in a peaceful and respectful discussion about his beliefs and ours, I am proud to say that alhamdulillah, Meet a Muslim was an overwhelming success.”

*Yasmeen, a “Meet a Muslim” participant in Chicago*

leadership building sessions, reflections and Q&A’s on topics such as teamwork, communication, and public speaking, all intended to prepare the officers to carry out next year’s work at MYNA and to help them develop on a personal and spiritual level.

In addition, during City Edition and the MYNA Summer Leadership Summit, youth accompanied by counselors and mentors



invited passersby to “Meet a Muslim,” and passed out carnations and sayings of the Prophet (PBUH) while encouraging open dialogue and understanding.

Understanding that not every young Muslim can make it to a camp, MYNA in the past few years has expanded its programming into the digital world with Personal Development Halaqas, Critical Response Webinars, a Blog, and online newsletters. In 2019, we premiered a partnership between MYNA’s all-girls intensive educational program, ISRAA, and Rabata, an organization dedicated to bringing traditional Islamic learning to women across the world. Led by Anse Tamara Gray, more than 260 students discussed Aqidah, the foundations of faith, and dedicated themselves to embracing the opportunity to seek scholarly knowledge with unlimited access.

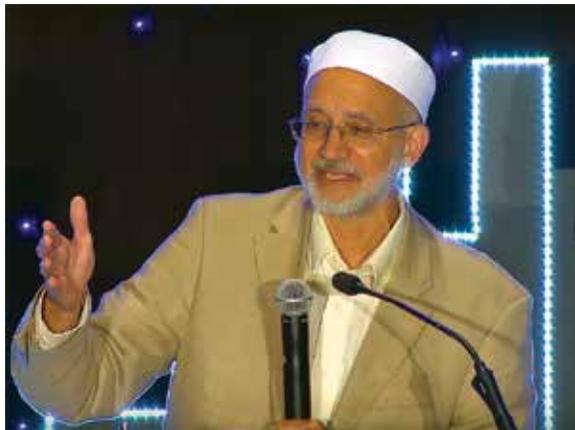
MYNA’s Blog welcomes a wide variety of contributions from MYNA participants whether it be commentary, favorite quotes, profiles of famous Muslims, sharing of feelings, opportunities for activism, reviews of apps for Muslims, artwork, photos from camps, tips for keeping your room clean, healthy eating, and more. In 2019, the blog had a 60% increase in monthly views.



# 56th Annual ISNA Convention



The theme of the 56<sup>th</sup> ISNA Annual Convention — ISNACON — was “What’s your super power for social good?” Since it’s origins 56 years ago, ISNA’s superpower has always been bringing people together to inspire and learn from one another, to share resources, to work collectively to build a community that meet the needs and advance the aspirations of Muslims in America. In 1963 we created a family of faith and activism from a diverse



**“ I believe in ISNA. I believe in the future of ISNA. I believe that ISNA has an essential contribution to make to the future of Islam in America.”**  
— *Ihsan Bagby*

group of Muslim students. In 2019, we brought together tens of thousands of believers to discover and deepen their superpower for good, to forge bonds and create a lasting commitment to the vision of a vibrant, thriving, faithful American Muslim community that serves Allah and our fellow humans with joy, compassion, determination and perseverance.



Throughout the year, we focused on the idea of promoting and working for social good as a key aspiration for ISNA, American Muslims, and our community as a whole. As such, our programming sought to inspire and empower individual Muslims as well as Islamic organizations, schools, and masjids to do the good in this world that is most dear to their hearts. From week-long MYNA Camps to our two Education Forums, local conferences, the Chaplaincy Conference, our work with Shoulder to Shoulder, and ISNACON — the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual ISNA Convention, we brought people together to help work on some of the most pressing issues facing our community and our country.

The 56th Annual ISNA Convention got a facelift with a new feel and a new focus. ISNACON 2019 challenged attendees, “What’s Your Superpower for Social Good?” While there were plenty of lectures, presentations also included keynote addresses with multiple speakers, workshops, panel conversations, pop-up stages, informal chats, and mentor sessions.

Tracks focused on themes like: Celebrating Islam, its history and tenets; Islam in the modern world, democracy, civil rights, rationality, equality, and progress; and Setting young adults on a path to live with intention and to celebrate who they are and who they are becoming. MYNA hosted its 34th Annual





“ This organization is something else...where else can you go to a camp and meet youth from all across the country and bond with them and form powerful friendships and build your faith with them.”

— Sr. Nour



“ We are here to show you how this group of youth right here is also you and you are all of them. Because MYNA is about every single Muslim youth of North America.”

— Br. Fiyaz

Convention, creating a youth track in addition to those aimed at adults and college students.

Sessions reflected the ISNACON theme covering topics such as, “Allah’s Attributes: The Source of our Superpowers,” “Defeating Super Villains,” “The Power Within,” “Origin Stories: Early Muslims in Mecca and the New World.” With the upcoming presidential elections and growing American Muslim political engagement, activism was also a main focus with sessions on issues like Housing and Food Insecurity, Combatting Oppression; Rape and Sexual Abuse; Multi-faith Collaboration for Social Transformation; and Closing the Healthcare Gap Across America. Speakers included not only the expected slate of nationally and internationally renowned professionals, activists and scholars, but we also heard from Presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Julián Castro, as well as Trevor Noah, host of The Daily Show.

Unique features abounded, from the female Qur’an reciters, to Sign Language interpretation at the main sessions, child-care for children with special needs, calligraphy and painting lessons and children’s play areas in the bazaar. As always, the 5k family run was well attended, as were the Art Exhibit and Entertainment Night. Other unique features included: a senior lounge, a ping pong tournament; AMHP Mental Health First Aid Training, Matrimonials session, Women’s Dance fitness, a Qawwali performance, basketball skills camp; Media Training, rides and games, a bouncy house for kids, public service opportunities, Young Professionals Luncheon, women’s dance fitness classes, and a Blood and Bone Marrow Drive.

### Community Service Recognition Luncheon

This year was the 20th Community Service Recognition Luncheon! The honoree was Dr. Abdalla Idris Ali. Dr. Ali founded and served 17 years as principal of the ISNA Islamic Community School in Toronto. He served on the ISNA Executive Council, the Majlis Ash-Shura, Youth and Education Committee, and was president of ISNA for two terms. He is the chair of the Islamic Media Foundation, a member of the NAIT Board, a founding member of CISNA, and chair of the ISNA Education Forum. He is currently working as the executive director of ISNA Canada. He has also served on the board of IBERR, which serves minority communities.



# 56th Annual ISNA Convention



“ To thank ISNA for the road it has traveled for 56 years in bringing to this situation where we can speak about so many achievements over these 56 years in the face of many of these challenges.”

“We have seen over these 56 years the building of a united Ummah out of the diversity of the Muslims who make up American Muslims, to build institutions that will be the inheritance for the future generations, and to build ourselves into being a part of the United States nation... and to create an identity that is not singular but multiple.”

— *Ebrahim Rasool*





// I want to thank the Islamic Society of North America for inviting me here today...I am here today because I believe in the concept of solidarity and the need for all of us no matter where we come from or what our background is to stand together in the struggle for justice and human rights."

"We must speak out at hate crimes and violence targeted at the Muslim community and call it what it is...domestic terrorism."

"As history reminds us the antidote to hatred and division is to bring people together around a shared vision of equality and prosperity, of creating societies that for all and not just the few."

— Bernie Sanders



## Interfaith Leaders Experience ISNACON

ISNA's Interfaith Unity Banquet has become a favorite event to bring leaders and lay practitioners from a diverse array of faith traditions together to foster mutual understanding and cooperation, and this year it was no exception. Focusing on the theme of Multifaith Collaboration for Change, the luncheon featured speakers from the Muslim, Hindu, Lutheran, Jewish Faiths, and other traditions.

ISNACON organizers upped their game this year, creating an entire interfaith track, with speakers from many faith backgrounds engaged in conversation about how to make communities, nations, and the world a better place for all. Topics included: Peace Requires Encounter, Multi-faith Collaboration for Social Transformation, Sisterhood Journeys in Faith and Friendship, and Multi-faith Support for Immigrants and Refugees and more.

# What did they say about the Convention?

Selected quotes from surveys

## Regarding the theme of convention:

"Loved the theme!"

## Regarding the speakers:

"I really love the main speakers and follow them via social media."

## Regarding overall experience at the convention:

"Great, we love to come as a family!"

"Another worthwhile event. Super inspired by the topic and speakers as well as the event planning"

"Very positive and wonderful experience"

"I loved the topics and the fact that Trevor Noah, Bernie Sanders, and Julian Castro were there was a HUGE thing. It made me feel special. You made me feel noticed as part of an important group of people."

"Great. I saw it as a valuable asset for American Muslims."

# Connecting and Informing Our Community

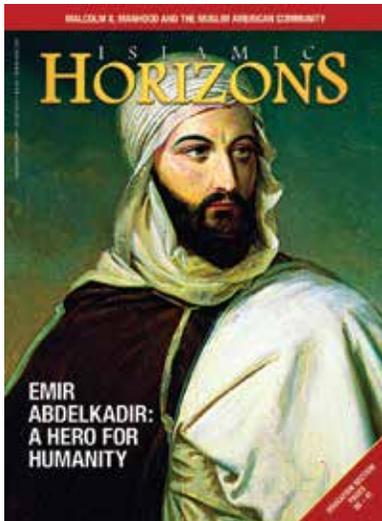
*Islamic Horizons*, ISNA's flagship magazine, provides a medium for ISNA to enhance the public image of Islam in America, promote interfaith collaboration and civic engagement and foster community development by sharing ideas and providing insight. The award-winning magazine includes features on contemporary political and social issues, international affairs, family life and culture, as well as book and film reviews.

content, quality production and on-time delivery to readers, provides advertisers with a unique gateway to reaching Muslims.

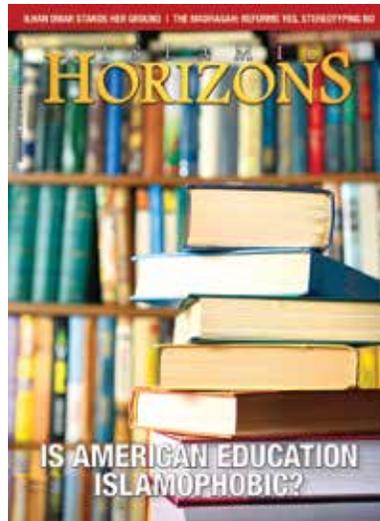
In addition to offering articles and reports of community interest and benefit, *Islamic Horizons* in 2018 strove to document important milestones in the Muslim American community's growth and development.

*Islamic Horizons*, with its professionally produced editorial

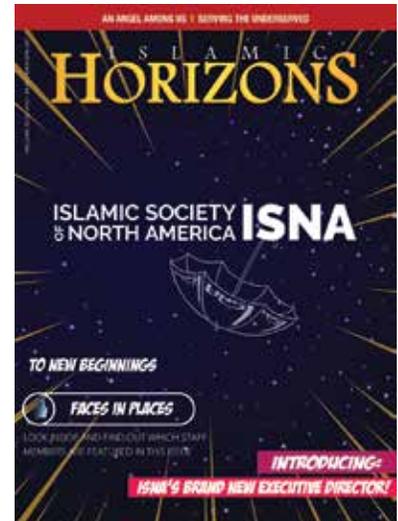
The major features in *Islamic Horizons* during 2019 include:



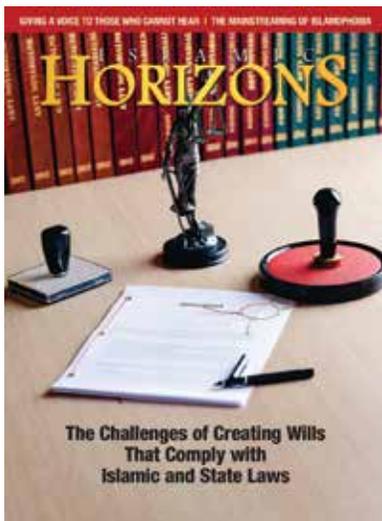
January/February:  
Emir Abdelkadir: A Hero for Humanity



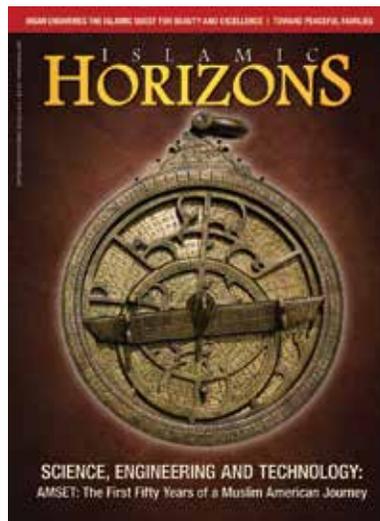
March/April:  
Is American Education Islamophobic?



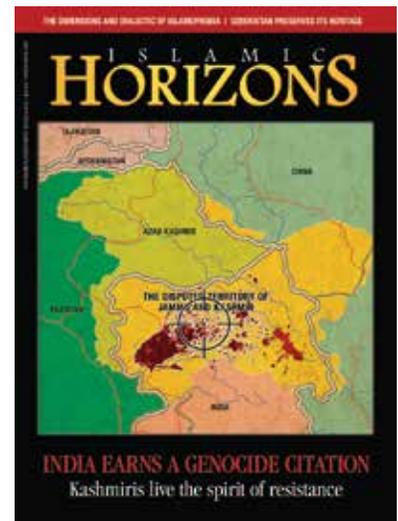
May/June:  
To New Beginning



July/August:  
The Challenges of Creating Wills That Comply with Islamic and State Laws



September/October:  
Science, Engineering and Technology:  
AMSET: The First Fifty Years



November/December:  
India Earns A Genocide Citation  
Kashmiris live the spirit of resistance

# ISNA Office of Interfaith and Community Alliances (IOICA)



## Shoulder to Shoulder

The IOICA Office is strategically located just across the street from the United States Capitol and Supreme Court. While ISNA is in the process of identifying new leadership for IOICA, we are grateful to the Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign — co-founded by ISNA board member Mohamed Elsanousi—for their work to support and sustain ISNA’s ongoing interfaith and community alliances.

## Interfaith Ramadan Engagement

For the past 3 years, Shoulder to Shoulder has worked alongside IOICA for an annual Ramadan Campaign to map and promote iftars around the country that are open to interfaith guests.



These iftars tell the story of American Muslims, in all their diversity and cultural identities, gathering with their neighbors to simply share a meal together and build relationships.

In 2018, this campaign was renamed “The United States of Love Over Hate” and over 120 Iftars in 33 states and Washington, D.C. were identified. In 2019, we grew our list significantly, cataloguing over 528 iftars in 38 states!



This year, Shoulder to Shoulder took their Ramadan engagement to the next level with a new initiative: a Ramadan Road Trip. Shoulder to Shoulder staff, along with a storyteller from the Interreligious Institute at Chicago Theological Seminary and a videographer from Seattle, travelled across the American Southeast, joining iftars in Raleigh, NC; Louisville, KY; Nashville,

## What They Said

“I want to thank the Islamic Society of North America for inviting me here today...I am here today because I believe in the concept of solidarity and the need for all of us no matter where we come from or what our background is to stand together in the struggle for justice and human rights.”

“We must speak out at hate crimes and violence targeted at the Muslim community and call it what it is...domestic terrorism.”

“As history reminds us the antidote to hatred and division is to bring people together around a shared vision of equality and prosperity, of creating societies that for all and not just the few.”



TN; Atlanta, GA; and ending in Washington, D.C. for Shoulder to Shoulder's annual Iftar. The goal of the Ramadan Road Trip was to show the diversity of the American Muslim community and tell stories about the many ways people are coming together around the country. You can read more here: <https://www.shouldertoshouldercampaign.org/ramadan-roadtrip>

Interfaith Advocacy In July, The Muslim Caucus Education Collective convened the first-ever Muslim Collective for Equitable Democracy Conference, gathering American Muslims in politics to discuss issues and network. During this event, Dr. Elsanousi and Shoulder to Shoulder's Executive Director, Dr. Catherine Orsborn, moderated a conversation with Rashida Tlaib, Abdul Sayeed, Khizr Khan, Ilhan Omar & Keith Ellison.

In an ongoing effort to repeal the Muslim Ban, Shoulder to Shoulder joined 300 religious organizations and faith leaders to organize a letter in support of the National Origin Based Anti-discrimination for Non-Immigrants (NO BAN) Act, and nearly 1000 faith-based individuals added their names to a petition of support.



## Dr. Sayyid Syeed presented with the Interfaith Unity Award



## Faith Over Fear Trainings

Shoulder to Shoulder's Faith Over Fear trainings are designed to help faith & community leaders counter anti-Muslim discrimination within their communities by equipping them with up-to-date research, resources, tools, and messaging. During the trainings, faith-leaders 1) improve their skill and confidence to speak up against anti-Muslim rhetoric and discrimination; 2) learn how to increase community discussion to effectively counter anti-Muslim discrimination; and 3) build stronger local multireligious networks.

### 2019 Trainings were held in:

- Willowbrook, Illinois - February 1-2 2019
- New York City, New York - March 7, 2019
- Bloomfield Hills, Michigan - April 11-12, 2019
- Houston, Texas - August 29-30, 2019
- Omaha, Nebraska - November 2-3, 2019
- Louisville, Kentucky - November 10-11, 2019
- Willmar, Minnesota - November 15-16, 2019
- Charleston, West Virginia - December 2, 2019

# Muslim Chaplaincy Program



ISNA's Chaplaincy Department has a two-pronged mission: to train and endorse chaplains. In September, ISNA held its 20th Annual Champlain Training and Conference during ISNACON (see the full report on page xx). Director of Chaplaincy Services, Br. Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad, MS, MSW, BCC also participated in the Association of Muslim Chaplains annual chaplain training event, which was held at Yale University's School of Divinity in March. Br Muhammad spoke about the "Importance of Muslim Chaplain Endorsement in American Institutions," outlining how certification can improve both the career trajectory of the chaplain and the quality of service that the chaplain provides.



ISNA's chaplain endorsement program certifies that an individual is spiritually, doctrinally, educationally, and professionally qualified to represent his/her faith community in a specialized settings such as hospitals, the military, prisons or universities. A letter of endorsement is a legal document that confirms the chaplain is trained to minister not only to Muslims, but to all who need his/her services, including individuals of diverse religious, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds.

In 2019, ISNA endorsed 4 new chaplains, and 1 chaplain candidate, bringing the total endorsements to 42 chaplains, 2 Chaplain Candidates, and 6 Lay Leaders. Of particular interest, our endorsee Sr. Saleha Jabeen is the first female Muslim Chaplain Candidate of United States Air Force & the Department of Defense. Sister Jabeen is a former Army service member and, Insha'Allah, upon completion of her Master in Divinity degree from the Chicago Theological Seminary and Chaplain Candidate training in the US Air Force, she will serve our Airmen and their families from multiple faith backgrounds within the US Air Force.



# ISNA Scholarships

Each year ISNA offers over \$100,000 in scholarships and interest free loans to college-aged youth and each year the program is proud to stand behind the education of our future generations. This year alone, thousands of students reached out for support. Consider joining us, and being a part of the solution to the lack of funds and resources for Muslim students in North America.

- **Hajja Razia Sherif Shaikh Scholarship**
- **Musa Dakri Family Scholarship**
- **Dr. Abdulmunim A. Shakir Scholarship**
- **Amana Mutual Funds Scholarship**
- **Aziz Jamaluddin Scholarship**
- **Plainfield Muslim Women for Better Society Scholarship**
- **Islamic Development Bank Loan Scholarship**



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